



Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

March 13, 2012

10:00 AM

RI Emergency Management Agency

645 New London Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Lt. Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts
MG Kevin R. McBride
Richard Jones
Jack Chartier
Lt. Patrick Reilly
Lt. James Manni
John Soscia
Dawn Mannix
Erin Lambie
Joseph Arsenault
Alysia Mihalakos
Jeff Stevens
Dawn Lewis
Peter Ginaitt
Brian Pires
Alan Steitz
Bill Mullen
Patrick Johnson
Elizabeth McDonald
Peter Marrianuchi
Jim Ball
Paul Stasiuk
Arthur Bovis
James Lanni
Robert Leach
Steven Florio
Joe McCooey

Gregory Scungio
Susan Earley
Jeff Kelly
Kevin Clapp
Larry Grimaldi
Michael DeMello
John Washburn
Vlad Ibarra

I. Call to Order / Attendance - Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Chair Roberts informed members of the shelter outreach meeting before EMAC with the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, with MG McBride and Elizabeth McDonald from the American Red Cross.

The meeting received positive feedback from Mayors/Town Administrators who wanted to be kept on the loop in regards to planned activities. Also, the meeting's discussion and content will serve as the basis for statewide outreach/educational meetings with Town/City leadership.

Chair Roberts also discussed two relevant legislative pieces before the General Assembly:

- **S 2606 Protection from Price Gouging During Emergencies.** This legislation was introduced by Senators Algieri, Bates and Tassoni and has a hearing in Senate Corporations on Tuesday, March 13th at the Rise of the Senate (usually around 4:45 pm) in Room 212. The proposed legislation would prohibit individuals and retailers of essential commodities from engaging in price gouging during a market emergency, an economic emergency, or upon a declaration of a state of emergency by the governor or federal disaster declaration.
- **H 7514 Add 2 members to EMAC.** This legislation was introduced by Rep. Blazejewski and Gallison and has been referred to House Veterans Affairs. No hearing has been scheduled as of this meeting. The proposed legislation would add the RI Association of Emergency Managers and the State Building Commissioner to the Council.

Lastly, Chair Roberts opened the floor for further legislative discussion. Mr. Florio, Director of the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing raised **H 7446** introduced by Representative Naughton and Handy. The proposed legislation would establish the Emergency and Public Communication Access Program to effectively deliver communication equivalency at the public places and during emergencies for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

II. Approval of Minutes from February 14, 2012

The Minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency Update

MG McBride opened the floor directly to the two presentations as both of them relate to efforts at the State level through RIEMA.

IV. State Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources

John Washburn, Operations Manager, RIEMA

Alan Seitz, Protective Security Advisor-RI, DHS

The presentation provided an overview of Critical Infrastructure Protection at the federal level and how it relates to efforts at the state level. Mr. Seitz discussed how most of that work revolves around the National Infrastructure Protection Plan, which sets forth a comprehensive risk management framework and defines critical infrastructure protection roles and responsibilities for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS); federal sector-specific agencies; and other federal, state, local, tribal and private partners.

In accordance with the National Infrastructure Protection Plan, state governments are responsible for developing, implementing, and sustaining a statewide/regional critical infrastructure and key resources protection program. The process aims at engaging all relevant intergovernmental coordination points as part of the overarching homeland security program for the State.

Mr. Seitz went on to discuss the DHS Enhanced Critical Infrastructure Protection Initiative and the utilization of the Infrastructure Survey Tool (IST), a multi-use, web based platform that enables effective data collection, analysis, sector and cross-sector comparison, dependency and interdependency identification and cascading impacts and effects. The IST is intended to assist DHS, federal, state, local, tribal and private sector stakeholders in conducting analyses of potential vulnerabilities associated with the nation's critical infrastructure and key resources and options to consider for risk mitigation. Additional assessments he conducts include the Site Assistance Visit and Computer Based Assessment Tool.

V. Intelligence Sharing Since 9/11

Lieutenant Patrick Reilly, Director, Rhode Island Fusion Center-RISP

John Soscia, Senior Intelligence Analyst, Rhode Island Fusion Center-RISP

The Intelligence Sharing presentation provided a brief history of changes made since 9/11 to enhance information sharing. At the time of the attacks credible intelligence concerning a potential terrorist plot was collected, but not shared with other law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Soscia explained how the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was one of the major changes enacted. Another was funding provided to individual states to improve overall security measures in an effort to strengthen the security of the country as a whole. The Intelligence Prevention and Terrorism Act of 2004 created the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) and the Office of the DNI. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence oversees seventeen federations of executive branch agencies and organizations that work

separately as well as together, to conduct intelligence activities necessary for the conduct of foreign relations and the protection of the national security of the United States.

The ODNI enables greater coordination at the Federal level, so that strategic and time-sensitive threat information gets into the hands of those who need it when necessary. It also facilitates coordination and sharing between agencies and different levels of government.

Also, Mr. Soscia highlighted how the Fusion Center is the central location where intelligence information concerning homeland security is collected, processed, analyzed and disseminated to members of law enforcement and others relevant parties. The Fusion Center uses existing capabilities built through this effort, to conduct the following activities:

- Access and monitor a wide array of information, as well as available computer databases within the law enforcement community, private sector, and general public concerning suspicious activity that may be related to terrorism.
- Analyze the information received in comparison to trends being observed in other states.
- Disseminate in a timely and concise manner to the individuals who will benefit from the information and
- Analyze National and International level intelligence to bring comparisons or links to local level.

For additional information about the presentation please contact Mr. John Soscia Intelligence Analyst RI State Police Fusion Center at 401.444.1172.

VI. New Business, Member Comments, Suggestions

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 8th at RIEMA and it will be a Domestic Subcommittee Reports.